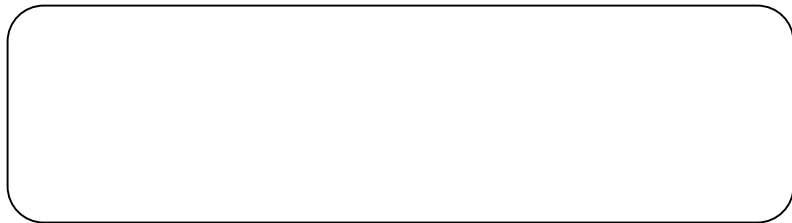


# Drywasher's Gazette

March 2023

Send Exchange Bulletins to:  
Valley Prospectors  
PO Box 2923  
San Bernardino, CA 92406-2923  
valleyprospectors49@gmail.com



Web Site: [www.valleyprospectors.org](http://www.valleyprospectors.org)  
Email: valleyprospectors49@gmail.com  
Mail: Valley Prospectors, PO Box 2923, San Bernardino, CA 92406-2923  
Next Meeting – Mar 7, 2023, @ San Bernardino Elks Lodge  
2055 Elks Dr, San Bernardino, CA

## Mission and Code of Ethics

Valley Prospectors Inc. is a non-profit educational organization dedicated  
*To promote Gold Prospecting as a healthy family activity.*

## A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

General Membership Meeting is held first Tuesday of each month at  
6:00 pm at the Elks Lodge at 2055 Elks Dr, San Bernardino, CA.

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## April Meeting Miner's Garage Sale

*Bring all your equipment that you have been wanting to get rid of all these years. You can offer it up at this meeting for sale to other members. Looking for a bargain? This a great chance to snag that new-to-you gear just in time for Spring.*



Note: Any equipment with gas or oil needs to be left in the car. Just bring a picture of what you have. Items for sale that are too large to bring, can be posted in the newsletter with photos. Contact Newsletter Crew if you need help placing an Ad.

Plan to bring cash or have a payment option like Venmo or Zelle.

*If you wish to donate your proceeds to the club...that would be great too!*

## Show Updates and Volunteers Needed

Since GPAA will not be holding its Gold Shows this year, Valley will plan to attend local shows. So far we plan to participate in Ventura, Lancaster, and Wrightwood. We also hope to hold a few school programs this year as well.



SHOWS & SCHOOLS

The **Ventura Gem & Mineral Society is March 4-5, 2023**, at the Ventura County Fairgrounds, CA. We need volunteers to help Pan Gold. We will need six gold panning helpers.

**Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral club show is May 6-7, 2023.** We will once again demonstrate gold panning and provide information on mining equipment. This show will be at the Antelope Valley Fair Grounds in Lancaster, CA.

Valley Prospectors will also join the **Wrightwood, CA Mountaineer Days on July 8-9, 2023.** This was a fun local event last year. The parade was a hoot!

**School program - On Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**, we will be doing a school program in Bakersfield. It will be 2-3 hours and we will have 52 4<sup>th</sup> graders to share our love of prospecting with.

Don't miss out on helping us introduce gold prospecting, metal detecting, and the love of the outdoors to our community. - Steve Schubert, Show Chair

### Special Thank You

A GIANT shout out to John Howell for donating cases of Gems from all over the World for our Minor Miners!!!

### New Big Bear Event in May!!

History Mystery Metal Detecting Hunt in Big Bear set for Sat. May 13, 2023. Lakeside location from the 1920's that has never been dug before. We will be joining with some Big Bear Valley Historical Society (BBVHC) members and digging up history! Leaving Boulder Bay Park in Big Bear Lake at 9:00 am to go to site.

Bring lunch, water, and detecting gear. Extra gear to share would be very welcome. \*A small donation for the use of the land please.\* At 2:00 we will gather and share our finds with the owner and each other! **RSVP is REQUIRED by April 5<sup>th</sup>.** No pets. VP Adult MEMBERS Only and Miner Minors

## Valley Prospectors Presidents Message March 2023 PREZ SAYS

Can you believe that it is March already, Welcome fellow Explorers of the ground, it is great to be your president, and I am delighted to share this story with all of you, I couldn't imagine as many of you at the last meeting that have never heard of "The Cat on the hill" While I was growing up, all of the neighbor kids talked about the Cat. when we said we were going to Las Vegas.

July 10, 1927 the Los Angeles Times had an article inquiring about the origin of the name that was given to the Cat. "Cronese Cat." The Triple AAA at that time said that a scientist who explored the area in the 1860's to the 1880's his name was Mr. Cronise and that is how the valley got its name, Conese Basin.

Before I tell you more, the Conese Basin is located right off of Interstate 15, and the cross street is Basin Road. Approximately 15 miles from Baker heading west. Between Barstow and Baker. There is a fifteen-acre Limestone Quarry somewhere out there. Of high-grade Limestone, at Cave Canyon.

But, the Native Americans tell a different tale, long before any person with the name of Conise showed up, they had already named the valley, at the same time period, a Paiute Indian informed his guest that you pronoun the name CHODEHESE, The dth (Sound) is slurred and subdued so it sounds like an "n," but if you pronounce it "n" they will correct you. So what does Cronese mean? Get ready.

### *"WILDCAT" "THE Cat on the Hill"*



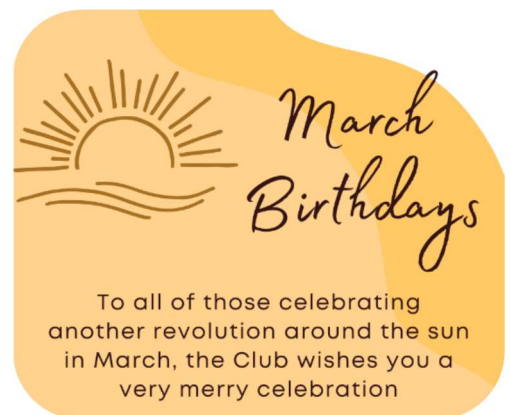
It was always easy to know where the cat was when I was a child, there was a gas station there at Basin Road. "Named Proctor's Station" It had water for all the cars that overheated. You could call it a mercy station. Over the years the most prominent of the dunes is the Cat Dune, At the base of the main dune is a smaller talus-covered falling dune informally named the "Kitten Dune."

If you ever get the opportunity as you come back from Bakers, At Basin Road look to the right. If you blink you may miss it, but now you know where to look. Keep an eye out for it. It's a Miracle! As it was stated in the LA Times "Blown sand for pigment, a mountain for the canvas, and wind for a Brush"

Make sure you keep an eye on our calendar, the events are listed each month. We hope that all is well, and please let us know if there is an illness.

Hope to see you all at our meetings.

Garry Devlin  
President 2023



## Valley Prospectors February 2023 - Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by President Garry Devlin @ 6:00 p.m. at Elks Lodge #836. Pledge of Allegiance led by Judy Lepper.

Courtesy Chair Sherry reports 33 members/1 guest present. Three members on Zoom. Minutes posted in the newsletter. Motion to approve by Gene/2nd Albert, hand consensus.

Treasurer's report given by L. Frost. She reports that Bank of America recommends moving large balance into a savings account, keeping small working balance in checking. This lowers risk of loss to fraud. Dues after tonight will incur a \$20 extra fee. She is calling the 47 members who have not renewed yet.

VP Birrell reports on a new Facebook page for members only. New password has been emailed, members need to respond to invite within 30 days. VP Birrell reports on upcoming events: (see newsletter for details)

1. 02/25 Redlands bottle hunt, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. at Trader Joe's
2. 02/26 Summit outing weather permitting formerly Hungryman
3. 04/01, Cabochon class in Hesperia
4. 04/27, AZ trip to Meteor Crater
5. 05/13, Big Bear metal detecting event

Treasurer L Frost presented an overview of 2023 budget. Details were discussed. Motion to accept by Coreena/2nd by Albert. Hand consensus unanimous. Break at 6:45 p.m. Reconvene at 7:15 p.m.

President Devlin requests and recruits volunteers for a Constitutional Review committee and Ord Mountain planning committee. Filled.

**Old Business:** Steve requests volunteers for the Ventura Gem and Mineral Show 03/3-5

**New Business:** none

**Speaker:** Don Star spoke about the AKAU camp program and asked if there was any interest in the 2 week trip, August summer 2024, approximately \$5000

Gold Finds of the Month: 1st Joe/2nd Ernie

Treasure Finds of the Month: 1st Everett/2nd Judy/3rd Ernie

50/50 raffle went to Dan, door prizes went to Katherine and Judy

President Devlin closed the meeting at 7:45.

Lady Luck drawings were held.

# LADY LUCK

DRAWING

Prize will include  
**Gold**  
next month



### MARCH MEETING

Taking those beautiful rocks you find and making Cabochons. Focus on rocks found in the Mojave Desert area.

**GUEST SPEAKER:**  
**CINDY MANDELL**

### Board Meeting Minutes

President Garry Devlin called the meeting to order at 5:19 p.m.

Minutes approved as read. Motion to approve by L. Frost/2nd S. Birrell  
Treasurer L. Frost reported on the Club's bank balance. Bank of America recommended moving a large balance to a savings account, leaving a working balance in the checking account, to limit risk of loss due to fraud.

Membership: L. Frost reported 47 members not renewed. She is making calls. Current club membership is at/or near 270 families.

Editor: Michelle requests all newsletter info by the 10th of the month

Claims: L. Frost contacted and submitted Plan of Operation forms to the National Forest.

President G. Devlin will be requesting volunteers at the General meeting to follow.

Old business: none New business: none

President Devlin closed the meeting at 5:36 p.m.



## From AFMS

### *New AFMS Juniors Website Launched*

When the new AFMS Junior's website launched in January 2022, part of that was a new way for clubs to sign up for Future Rockhounds of America (FRA) using an online form.

Future Rockhounds of America link is:

[www.juniors.amfed.org/fra](http://www.juniors.amfed.org/fra)

One question I'm often asked is why should our club care about a juniors program? And not surprisingly these are some of the same clubs whose membership is dropping, and they are in danger of folding. As you may know, Boy Scouts of America rebranded itself a few years ago into Scouts USA and at the same time included girls across the board in all levels of programming. I was involved in Scouts at the time, and I can tell you that one of the reasons they did this was to accommodate busy families.

Boy Scouts recognized that it didn't work for Jack to be going off to boy scout meetings once

a week and Jill to be going off to girl scouts, and they needed something that the whole family could do together. Families simply do not have time for girl scouts, boy scouts, soccer, piano lessons, 4-H, and everything else that's available for kids today. A rock club's junior program can do the same thing. It can turn your club into something the whole family can participate in, including Grandma and Grandpa. Think about it — most clubs are very diverse. You have people who like fossils, people who like minerals, those who like going on field trips, or those who like participating in lapidary classes. Your club most likely already has something everyone in a busy family is interested in.

So, my message is, if your club doesn't have a youth program consider starting one, and the new website is a great place to start. If your club had a juniors program and you had to put it on hold and you need help restarting it, reach out and we will be glad to walk you through a restart.

Website link is:

[www.juniors.amfed.org](http://www.juniors.amfed.org)

*Original Article by Lora Hall,  
AFMS Junior Programs Chair.  
Excerpts taken by Drywasher's  
Gazette Crew*

## VP Club Event

### Arizona Meteor

### Caravan

**April 27-30, 2023**

We are meeting at Meteor Crater RV park in Winslow, AZ on Thursday afternoon to set up our trailers and prepare for the Friday morning Dobell Ranch excursion! (There are hotels nearby if you choose to go that route).

**Friday** - Drive to Dobell Ranch and dig for petrified rocks. Stopping on the way home at the Rainbow Forest Museum

**Saturday** - We are going to The Meteor Crater and Barringer Space Museum.

Lunch at our trailers, then a side trip to Canyon Diablo Railroad Bridge and Apache Death Cave! (There is a casino in that area too)

**Sunday** - On the way home Sunday, we will go meteorite hunting near the border.

*Come to all the activities or pick and choose what ones you want to attend.*



# Drywasher's Gazette

## 2023 Board & Committee Members

If you need to reach out to any Board or Committee member, e-mail [valleyprospectors49@gmail.com](mailto:valleyprospectors49@gmail.com) Phone: (760) 868-6564 or look on the club website directory under Members Only.

### Executive Officers

<b>President</b>	Garry Devlin
<b>Vice President</b>	Susan Birrell
<b>Secretary</b>	Diane Railsback
<b>Treasurer</b>	Lorraine Frost

### Board of Directors

Joe Chavez	Albert Naki
Stacey Dixon	Katherine Naki
Art Duysings	Coreena Ross
Rosie Duysings	Mike Ryan
Sherry Livingston	Mindy Ryan
Dwayne Lowrey	Ernie Tovar

### Alternates

Randy Lunn (1)
John Bonson (2)
John Howell (3)

### Chairpersons

<b>Apparel</b>	Rosie Duysings
<b>Blood Bank</b>	Lorraine Frost
<b>Budget</b>	Lorraine Frost
<b>CFMS</b>	Bural LaRue
<b>Courtesy</b>	Sherry Livingston
<b>Co-Editor</b>	Michelle O'Brien
<b>Co-Editor</b>	Coreena Ross
<b>Finds/Month</b>	Everett Miller
<b>Lady Luck</b>	Stacey Dixon
<b>50/50</b>	Sherry Livingston
<b>Gold Sales</b>	Art Fairchild
<b>Historian</b>	Stu Luce
<b>Librarian</b>	Mark Lash
<b>Membership</b>	Andrea Frost
<b>Name Tags</b>	Andrea Frost
<b>Programs</b>	Susan Birrell
<b>Claims</b>	Lorraine Frost
<b>Show &amp; School Rep.</b>	Steve Schubert
<b>Wagon Master</b>	Varies by Outing

### CLAIMS

**The 2 Burro's Placer Claims** 20 acres  
**Coolgardie Placer Claim Harvey's Oro Rico** 120 acres  
**Gold Venture & Pickett #3 Placer Claims**, 20 acres ea.  
**Hungry Man 1, 2, 3, 4 and Chunker Placer Claims** 550 total acres  
**Indian Gulch and Indian Flat Placer Claim** 60 acres  
**Jackass 1, Placer Claim** 160 acres  
**Miner's Folly Placer Claim** 60 acres  
**Moriah Placer Claim** 15 acres  
**Pickett #2 Placer Claim** 30 acres  
**(Cajon Pass) VP Summit Placer Claim** 60 acres

AS OF MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023

GOLD IS

\$1,875.75 PER OUNCE.

\$60.31 PER GRAM.

<https://pricegold.net/>



*Three-gram Nugget Found By Geno From Reno digging in the riverbank at Petey's Place during the 1st Nugget Hunt*

## The 2023 North Yuba Nugget Hunt - Saturday July 29, 2023

*Invitation from Tim Mac Master*

Passing the word to all club members that they are invited to join us at the 2023 North Yuba Nugget Hunt. This is a great opportunity for all who love mining in the Magnificent Canyon of North Yuba. On Saturday, July 29th, I will be allowing all who desire to dig, pan, sluice, and detect, to remove all the gold and other valuable minerals that they can from my Petey's Place claim. The same will hold true for the Bent Tree claim. Downriver from the Bent Tree claim is a sizeable parcel of public land. So with Petey's Place, Bent Tree, and the public land open, there will be a large gold-rich stretch open for recreational prospecting. The best part of the Nugget Hunt is the gathering of the Motherlode mining community. Last year we had about 100 miners. We have the full spectrum of prospectors from experts to first-timers. We have gold giveaways and other free prizes when we gather at the end of the day at Camp America (i.e. Mr. Clark's flag-studded campsite at Union Flat). The event is noncommercial, the mining is nonmechanized and it's a bring your family and friends affair. Randy Lunn can attest to the fun for all.

### **\*\*\*GENERAL REMINDER\*\*\***

**You're invited to be our guest at the General membership meetings that are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm at the Elks Lodge at 2055 Elks Dr, San Bernardino, CA.**

*Board of Directors meet at 5:15 pm before the General Meeting at the Elks Lodge. – Join in for Tasty Tuesday in their dining room.*

**Can't make it in person? Join in via Zoom meeting.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89402779413?pwd=cEtyZjZ5UVVPT2xZMmdEeFRrT0hoZz09>

**Meeting ID: 894 0277 9413      Passcode: 958417**

**One Tap Mobile**

+16699006833,,89402779413#,,,,\*958417# US (San Jose)

+16694449171,,89402779413#,,,,\*958417# US

# Drywasher's Gazette

## **\*\*Updated\*\*** Calendar of Events

DATE	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
<b>Feb 25</b>	<b>Redlands Bottle Hunting Outing</b>	<b>Leave Trader Joe's Parking Lot in Redlands at 9:00 am sharp! Adult VP members and Minor Miners only.</b>
<b>Feb 26</b>	<b>Summit Claim Outing</b>	<b>Leaving Camp Cajon Marker @ 9:00am</b>
<b>Mar 3-5</b>	Ventura Rock & Mineral Show	Contact: Steve Schubert Volunteers Needed
<b>Mar 19</b>	Summit Claim Outing	Leaving Camp Cajon Marker @ 9:00am
<b>Apr 1</b>	Cabochon Making Class	Contact: Susan Birrell *All spots filled*
<b>Apr 22</b>	2 Burros Claim Outing	Meet at Claim
<b>Apr 27-30</b>	Meteor Crater/Dobell Ranch Holbrook, AZ	Contact: Susan Birrell
<b>May 6-7</b>	Antelope Valley Show Booth	Volunteers Needed. Contact: Steve Schubert
<b>May 13</b>	Big Bear Metal Detect Hunt	RSVP by April 5 <sup>th</sup> Meet at Boulder Bay @ 9:00am Contact: Susan Birrell
<b>May 20</b>	Oro Rico-Coolgardie Gold Outing	Meet at Starlight Donuts in Barstow @ 7:00am
<b>Jun 3</b>	Indian Gulch Claim Outing	Leaving Fawn Park in Fawnskin, CA @7:00am
<b>July 8-9</b>	Wrightwood Mountaineer Days Booth	Volunteers Needed. Contact: Steve Schubert
<b>July 21-23</b>	Miner's Folly – VP Club Picnic	Sat Noon Meeting and Games
<b>Aug 4-13</b>	Yuba River Claims Outing	Contact: Coreena Ross (Wagon Master)
<b>Sept 16</b>	Randsburg Mining Days	Local festival starts @8:00am. Claim outings done independently.
<b>Oct 21</b>	Archeology Day Minor Miner Event	Full day of Rock Activities for the kids location TBD
<b>Oct 27-29</b>	Ord Mountain Rendezvous	Metal Detecting events, potluck, great get together with other local clubs.
<b>Nov 18</b>	2 Burros Claim Outing	Meet at Claim
<b>Dec 2</b>	Annual Holiday Party & Potluck	11am-2pm Pinon Hills, CA

**\*\* As always events are subject to last minute change due to weather or availability. Please make sure to check the Facebook group for any last-minute update. If you are not on Facebook, please e-mail or text another member who has access.**



Remember that all prospectors may be judged by the example "You set."

Leave flora and fauna as you found it.  
"Do Not Destroy any property,  
public or private!"

"Obey all laws". Please do not litter.

\*Each member of Valley Prospectors should strive to set a good example for others